There should be proper understanding of the provisions of the Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967 and the Rules made thereunder.

Visits of VIPs need drastic curtailing as their visits hamper investigation and there is every chance of important evidence being lost by delay in investigation.

There should be a Code of Conduct for the political parties when their leaders make statements without verification in a situation like the present one. Leaders cannot make statements merely for gaining political mileage. Their statements should be subdued and not to fan the fire when the atmosphere is communally surcharged. It is the duty of everyone to have regard to each other's faith and to spread a message of love, peace and kindness. Murderer is a murderer to whichever faith he may belong. A criminal is a criminal. Religion need not be brought in such matters. Allow the police to make independent investigation of the crime uninfluenced by politics or religion or caste.

Media, both print and electronic, has also to exercise restraint. Screaming headlines should be avoided which have the effect of misleading the public and creating more tension and suspicion among different communities. News headlines in the cases of rape of nun and murder of a Christian boy and girl after rape have been noticed. One cannot imagine the damage that might have been caused to the polity by such headlines and reporting. Reporting of communal strife should not be done without proper verification or an ordinary crime given a communal twist.

Acts for Identification of Foreigners

238. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for adopting two different Acts for the purpose of identification of foreigners in the country i.e., Foreigners Act, 1946 applicable to the rest of the country, against the IMDT Act, 1983, applicable to Assam alone; and

(b) whether it is a fact that treating citizens and non-citizens of the country under these two different Laws is discriminatory and unconstitutional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The IMDT Act 1983 is applicable to the entire country although it has been notified as of now for the State of Assam only. The IMDT Act, 1983 was enacted in 1983 in the background of the Assam agitation for detection and deportation of illegal migrant in Assam.

(b) The Government is of the view that the IMDT Act in its application to the State of Assam alone, is discriminatory. A proposal to repeal the IMDT Act 1983 is under consideration of Government

Bomb blast in Pooja Express

†239. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorists have added a new dimension to terrorism by carrying out bomb blast in the Pooja Express train; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Acts of sabotage have always been one of the key element: in the strategy adopted by terrorists. There have been instances of this nature in the past as well.

(b) Central Government has been regularly sensitising the State Governments to undertake appropriate preventive measures by way of gathering of tactical intelligence, close surveillance of vulnerable areas, regular patrolling of sensitive areas and installations and anti-sabotage checks etc. Specific intelligence inputs received from time to time are shared with the State Governments.

Terrorism in J&K

†240. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that activities of separatist and terrorist elements have been constantly on the increase in Jammu and Kashmir for the past few years;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.